

Evening Prayer - Wednesday and daily in Christmastide

THE BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

A light, which may be the Paschal Candle, is brought in, or a candle may simply be lit.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all.

The light of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to God

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Blessèd are you,

God our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever!

In the beginning you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

To dispel the darkness of our night,
you sent forth your Son, the first-born of all creation.

He is our Christ, the light of the world,
and him we acclaim, as all creation sings to you,

Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life:

Blessèd be God for ever!

While the other candles are lit the following or another suitable hymn may be sung.

A SONG OF THE LIGHT

- 1 **O joyful light,
from the pure glory
of the eternal heavenly Father,*
O holy, blessèd Jesus Christ.**
- 2 **As we come to the setting of the sun*
and see the evening light,**
- 3 **We give thanks and praise
to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit of God.**
- 4 **Worthy are you at all times
to be sung with holy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,*
and to be glorified through all creation.**

Verses from PSALM 141 may be said:

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,

the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness.
But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God,
in you I take refuge;
do not leave me defenceless.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

THE OPENING PRAYER may be said:

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

I haere mai te Kupu ki tōna kainga ake a kīhai tōna iwi ake i mōhio ki a ia. Engari ko te hunga i manako ki a ia, i whakapono ki tōna ingoa, i hoatu e ia te mana ki a meinga rātou hei tamariki na te Atua.

Hoani 1.11-12

E te Atua kai hanga i ngā mea katoa
Nāu i hanga mātou kia rite ki tōu te āhua
I tona mai e koe tāu tama
Hei whakaora i a mātou e taka nei ki te hē
Māu anake ka ora mātou e taurimatia nei
I roto i tō mātou tamarikitanga
I mea koe, no te pēnei te rangatiratanga o te rangi.
I whai wāhi ai mātou i roto i a koe. **Āmine.**

THE WORD OF GOD — *see the introduction*

the Psalm(s) - the following may be used, those in the Lectionary, or those in the Alternate Table of Psalms

Week 1 & Sundays in Christmastide — Psalm 110

- 1 The Lord said to my lord:
‘Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.’
- 2 From the holy mountain
the Lord hands you the sceptre of power:
saying, ‘Rule in the midst of your enemies.’
- 3 On the day of your power your people shall
willingly offer themselves:
in holy array they will come to you
like dew at the birth of the morning.
- 4 The Lord has sworn an oath
that will never be retracted:
‘You are a priest for ever
in the line of Melchizedek.’

*Eternal God,
you have given your Son authority
in heaven and in earth;
grant that we may never lose
the vision of his kingdom*

but serve him with hope and joy. Amen.

Week 2 and Mondays in Christmastide —

from Psalm 89

- 1 I will sing of your steadfast love for ever O Lord:
my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness
from one generation to another.
- 2 For your love is such as to endure for ever:
your faithfulness is established
as firm as the heavens.
- 3 You have said,
‘I have made a covenant with my chosen:
I have sworn to David my servant,
- 4 ‘I will establish your posterity for ever:
and uphold your throne for all generations.’
- 19 Once in a vision to your servant you said:
‘I have set the crown upon one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.
- 20 ‘I have found David my servant:
and with my holy oil I have anointed him.
- 21 ‘My hand shall always be with him:
and my arm shall give him strength.
- 22 ‘The enemy shall never outwit him:
nor the wicked bring him low.
- 23 ‘I will beat down his foes before him:
and vanquish those who hate him.
- 24 ‘My faithfulness and constant love
shall be with him:
and through my name
his head shall be lifted high.
- 25 ‘I will stretch out his hand to the Sea:
and his right hand as far as the River.
- 26 ‘He will say to me, “You are my father:
my God and the rock of my salvation.”
- 27 ‘And I will name him my first-born:
the highest among the rulers of the earth.
- 28 ‘My steadfast love for him I will maintain for ever:
and my covenant with him shall stand firm.
- 29 ‘I will maintain his posterity for ever:
and make his throne endure
as long as the heavens.

*Abba God, we call you Father,
and your care for us
is motherly as well.
Protect our power to love and be loved,
and make us glad to be called your children,
one whānau in Christ. Amen.*

Week 3 & Tuesdays in Christmastide — Psalm 96

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord all the earth.
- 2 Sing, and give praise to God’s name:

- tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.
- 3 Proclaim God's glory to the nations:
God's marvellous deeds to all the peoples.
 - 4 For you O Lord are great
and highly to be praised:
more to be feared than all the gods.
 - 5 The gods of the nations are no more than idols:
but you O Lord
are the one who made the heavens.
 - 6 Glory and majesty attend you:
strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.
 - 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the nations:
ascribe to the Lord honour and might.
 - 8 Ascribe due honour to God's holy name:
bring offerings,
and enter the courts of the Lord.
 - 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe.
 - 10 Proclaim to the nations, 'The Lord is king:
the Lord has made the world so firm
it cannot be moved,
and will judge the peoples with justice.'
 - 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad:
let the sea roar and all the creatures in it.
 - 12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them:
then all the trees of the forest
will shout with joy before the Lord.
 - 13 For you O Lord are coming to judge the earth:
with righteousness you will judge the world,
and the peoples with your truth.

*Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness,
we give you thanks and praise
for your grace in sending Jesus Christ
not for any merit of our own
but when we had turned away from you.
With your whole created universe
we joyfully praise you
for you are our God. Amen.*

Week 4 & Wednesday in Christmastide — Psalm 45

- 1 My heart overflows with a noble theme:
I utter the song I have made for a king,
my tongue is like the pen of a ready writer.
- 2 You are the fairest of men,
grace is upon your lips:
therefore God has blessed you for ever.
- 3 Gird your sword upon your thigh O mighty one:
in splendour and in state.
- 4 In your majesty ride on to conquer,
in the cause of truth and justice:
and let your right hand teach
by its awesome deeds.

- 5 Your arrows will be very sharp,
in the heart of the king's enemies:
and the nations shall fall at your feet.
- 6 Your throne is as God's throne,
it endures for ever:
your royal sceptre is a sceptre of righteousness.
- 7 You are a lover of right and a hater of wrong:
therefore God your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above other kings.
- 8 All your garments are fragrant with
myrrh aloes and cassia:
music of strings from ivory palaces
makes you glad.
- 9 Kings' daughters are among
your ladies of honour:
on your right hand is the queen
in gold of Ophir.
- 10 Listen my daughter, hear and ponder my words:
forget your own people
and your father's house.
- 11 The king desires your beauty:
he is your lord, therefore bow down before him.
- 12 The people of Tyre will come with their gifts:
the richest in the land will court your favour.
- 13 The bride is a king's daughter,
in the palace all honour awaits her:
her clothes are embroidered with gold.
- 14 In robes of many colours
she is brought to you O king:
her maiden companions with her
to bring her into your presence.
- 15 With joy and gladness they bring her:
they enter the royal palace.
- 16 In place of your fathers you shall have sons:
and you will make them princes
over all the earth.
- 17 And I will cause your name to be remembered
from one generation to another:
therefore the peoples shall praise you for ever.

*Eternal God giver of love and peace,
you call your children to live together as one family;
give us grace to learn your ways
and to do your will,
that we may bring justice and peace to all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God now and for ever. Amen.*

Week 5 & Thursdays in Christmastide — Psalm 128

- 1 Blessed are all those who fear the Lord:
those who walk in God's ways.
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of your labours:

- and you shall be happy and prosper.
- 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine:
within the walls of your house;
 - 4 your children like slips of olive:
planted round about your table.
 - 5 Thus shall all those be blessed:
who fear the Lord in their heart.
 - 6 May the Lord bless you from the holy city:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
 - 7 May you live to see your children's children:
and upon Israel let there be peace.

*God of seed and growth and harvest,
creator of need, creator of satisfaction;
give us, we pray, our daily bread,
sufficient and assured for all.
Give us also, we pray, the bread of life,
and we shall have a care to feed the hungry,
and to seek for peace and justice in the world.
Help us, then, to remember and to know
that you are our life today and every day;
you are the food we need, now and for ever. Amen.*

Week 6 & Friday in Christmastide — Psalm 132

- 1 O Lord remember David:
and all the hardships he endured.
- 2 How he swore an oath to the Lord:
and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob,
- 3 'I will not enter the house where I live:
nor will I climb into the bed where I rest,
- 4 'I will not give sleep to my eyes:
or permit my eyelids to droop,
- 5 'until I find a place for the Lord:
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.'
- 6 At Ephrathah we heard of the ark of God:
and we found it in the region of Jearim.
- 7 And we said, 'Let us go into
the dwelling-place of the Most High:
and kneel in worship at God's footstool.'
- 8 Arise O Lord and enter your resting-place:
you and the ark of your strength.
- 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness:
and let your faithful people cry out for joy.
- 10 For your servant David's sake:
do not reject your anointed king.
- 11 The Lord made a sure promise to David:
a promise that will never be revoked,
- 12 'A son, the fruit of your body:
I will set upon your throne.
- 13 'If your sons keep my covenant,
and obey the teaching that I give them:
their descendants too shall sit on your

- throne in succession for ever.'
- 14 For the Lord has chosen Jerusalem:
the Lord desired it for a home and said,
- 15 'This is my resting-place for ever:
here I will dwell, for I have a delight in her.
- 16 'I will abundantly bless her provisions:
and satisfy her poor with bread.
- 17 'I will clothe her priests with salvation:
and her faithful people shall rejoice and sing.
- 18 'There I will make a branch to spring
from the stem of David:
and I have prepared a lamp
for my anointed king.
- 19 'His enemies I will cover with shame:
but on him the crown he wears
will shed its lustre.'

*Eternal and glorious God,
you dwell in a high and holy place,
yet draw us near in your beloved Son;
we humble ourselves before you
and pray that we may know your loving presence,
Creator, Redeemer, and Life-giver
our one true God for ever. Amen.*

Week 7 & Saturdays in Christmastide — Psalm 84

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling-place:
Lord God of power and might.
- 2 My soul has a desire and longing
to enter the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 3 The sparrow finds for herself a house:
and the swallow a nest
where she may lay her young.
- 4 Even so have the singers a home at your altars:
they stand always praising you
my king and my God.
- 5 O Lord God of hosts:
blessed are those who dwell in your house.
- 6 Blessed are those whose strength is in you:
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.
- 7 Going through the arid valley,
they find a spring from which to drink:
the early rain covers it with pools of water.
- 8 They go from strength to strength:
and appear every one before God in Jerusalem.
- 9 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:
give ear O God of Jacob.
- 10 Show favour O God to the king our defender:
and look upon the face of your anointed prince.
- 11 Truly one day in your courts:
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

- 12 I would rather stand at the threshold
of the house of my God:
than live in the homes of the wicked.
- 13 For the Lord God is a defence and shield,
the Lord will give grace and honour:
and no good thing will be withheld
from those who live a blameless life.
- 14 O Lord God of hosts:
blessèd are those who put their trust in you.

*Support us, Lord, all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work done;
then Lord, in your mercy, give us safe lodging,
a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.*

THE OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

If there are two Scripture Readings, the first may be read before the OT Canticle, or both may be read after it.

Either: *THE SONG OF HANNAH*

- 1 My heart exults in the Lord:
my strength is exalted in my God.
- 2 There is none holy like the Lord:
there is none beside you, no rock like our God.
- 3 For you O Lord are a God of knowledge:
and by you our actions are weighed.
- 4 The bows of the mighty are broken:
but the feeble gird on strength.
- 5 You Lord make poor and make rich:
you bring low and you also exalt.
- 6 You raise up the poor from the dust:
and lift the needy from the ash-heap.
- 7 You make them sit with princes:
and inherit a seat of honour.
- 8 For yours O Lord are the pillars of the earth:
and on them you have set the world.

1 Samuel 2.1-4, 7, 8

Glory to . . .

Or: *GOD'S CHOSEN ONE*

- 1 There shall come forth a shoot
from the stump of Jesse:
and a branch shall grow out of its roots,
- 2 and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
- 3 the spirit of counsel and might:
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 4 He shall not judge by what his eyes see:
or decide by what his ears hear,
- 5 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor:
and decide with equity
for the meek of the earth.

- 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb:
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
- 7 and the calf and the lion cub together:
and a little child shall lead them.
- 8 They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain:
for the earth shall be full
of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11.1-4, 6, 9

Glory to . . .

THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

The Short Scripture Reading may be used, or those from the lectionary, either is followed by the Responsory, or

This RESPONSE to the reading may be used:

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
That glory may dwell in our land.

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE: THE MAGNIFICAT

Refrain:

You have looked with favour on your lowly servant:*
from this day, all generations will call her blessèd.

Or, in Christmastide:

When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night was in the midst of her swift course:*
from your royal throne O God, down from the heavens,
leapt your almighty Word.

Or, on feasts of the BVM:

Mary gave birth to the Word of God;*
truly she is the ever-blessèd Mother
of Christ our Lord.

The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour,
- 2 for you Lord have looked with favour
on your lowly servant:
and from this day all generations will call me
blessèd.
- 3 You O Most Mighty have done great things for
me:
and holy is your name.
- 4 You have mercy on those who fear you:
from generation to generation.
- 5 You have shown the strength of your arm:
you have scattered the proud in their conceit.
- 6 You have cast down the mighty from their
thrones:
and have lifted up the lowly.
- 7 You have filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich you have sent away empty.

8 You have come to the help of your people:
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
9 the promise you made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to God: Source of all being,
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Or

**Glory to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The refrain is repeated after the canticle.

THE PRAYERS

Intercession and Thanksgiving are offered in free prayer or in silence, ending with the following, [or some other appropriate litany or prayer]:

Have mercy, O Lord, upon us,
as we have hoped in you.

Lord, have mercy. E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.

Give justice to the orphan and the oppressed
and break the power of wickedness and evil.

Christ, have mercy. E te Karaiti, kia aroha mai.

Lord, hear our prayer
and answer us in your righteousness.

Lord, have mercy. E te Ariki, kia aroha mai.

THE COLLECT for the day, or for Wednesdays:

Be our light in the darkness, Lord we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ . . .

The Collect for Christmastide:

Almighty God,
you gave your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him,
and be born of the Virgin Mary;
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer follows

Rejoicing in the presence of God among us
and as Christ teaches us we pray . . .

THE CONCLUSION

THE BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

ko tēnei rānei

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, o Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu,
ake ake. Āmine.**

Or, in Christmastide:

May the grace of Christ our Saviour be with us all. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.